Dr. Hermann J. Muller Is Dead; Genetecist Won'46 Nobel Prize

He Found That X-Rays Could Affect Heredity - Urged Propagating Geniuses

Special to The New York Times

INDIANAPOLIS, April Dr. Hermann Joseph Muller, winners of the Nobel Prize in 1946 for his discoveries of the hereditary effects of radiation, died today at Robert W. Long Hospital. He had been hospitalized last month with a heart condition.

Dr. Muller, who was 76 years old, was Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of Zoology at Indiana University in Bloomington, where he had lived since 1945.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Dorothea Muller; a son, David E. Muller, a professor of mathematics at the University of Illinois, and a daughter Mrs. K. Moe Htun, whose husband is on the faculty of the University of Hawaii.

Funeral arrangements were incomplete tonight.

Muller studied the mysteries of to knowledge of how they may heredity and genetics, fascinated with such biological complexities as the impact of radiation on genes. Even in his final years, he struggled to link his biological knowledge with a social awareness.

Lived in the Bronx Hermann Jessey 15.

eyed biologist once observed.

And in recent years Dr. MulYoung Muller attended Morris
ler engaged in a highly publiHigh School in the Bronx, where radiation from nuclear bomb club, and Columbia University tests could cause "tens of thou-where he majored in zoology

sands" of harmful mutations in He helped found the Biology future generations.

In 1955, with eight other prominent scientists, including Albert"Einstein, he signed an appeal to all nations to foreswear war because the hydrogen bomb threatened "the continued existence of mankind."

These, statements, and others, made Dr. Muller a controversial figure in academic circles. His Impulse."

He helped found the Biology Club there and was a member of the Peithologian Literary Society. During summers, Muller worked as a tutor, a bank elerk and at a resort hotel.

He was graduated from Columbia cum laude in 1910 and earned an M.A. there in physical models are also summers and the peithologian Literary society. During summers, Muller worked as a tutor, a bank elerk and at a resort hotel.

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figure in academic circles, His major achievements, however, Dr. 1 were never overlooked.

Charges in Fly's Offspring

In 1927, after years of work where he completed his Ph.D. In 1927, after years of work with fruit files whose pedigrees and hereditary characteristics were known for generations, Dr. Muller demonstrated that by subjecting the files to severe department in 1918. It was at X-ray, treatment, a variety of richanges, appeared in their young, in the shape and color of their, eves, in the size and shape of their wings, in their and from 1920 to 1925 taught hair antennae and in their general structure.

Where he completed his Ph.D.

He served as an instructor in biology at Rice Institute in Houston, Tex., starting in 1915, and was named head of the department in 1918. It was at Rice that he began his experitured to Columbia for two years of teaching and research shape of their wings, in their antennae and in their general structure.

From 1933 to 1937, Dr. Muller eral structure.



Dr. Hermann J. Muller

dictatorship of any kind, over-

population or fanaticism."
"We are beginning to learn Controversial Genetecist

For. more than 50 years, Dr. "From this we are proceeding."

"Scientists have the responsibility of seeing to it that their efforts, are used for the benefit, not disadvantage, of their fellow humans," the slight, gray-manufactured objects of art in metal.

Hermann Joseph Muller was born in New York City on Dec. 21, 1890. His father, Hermann Joseph Muller, and his grandfather, Nicholas Muller, manufactured objects of art in metal. metal.

cized campaign to warn that he helped established a science sands" of harmful mutations in He helped found the Biology

Dr. Muller continued studies at the Medical School of Cornell University in 1911-12 and then returned to Columbia

From 1933 to 1937. Dr. Muller

The experiments opened an was a sentor geneticist at the immense area of research in a Institute of Genetics in Mosfield started by Gregor Mendel, cow. "I went to Russia hope-the seath-century Austrian whom I saw how genetics was a sentor whom the companies was a sentor whom the compan monk, who showed that certain when I saw how genetics was termined by chromosomes and Stalin to fit the Communist party line," he once wrote. genes.

Dr. Muller found that X-rays sometimes broke the chromo-nineteen-thirties and forties ansomes in two. The broken sec-gered and dismayed him. Writtion wandered away, he said, ing in the Bulletin of Atomic producing a mutation.

with results that still daze biological science." biologists," Waldemar Kaempf- As a result of this, Dr. Muller Muller. "At one fell stroke he in a generation and charged obtained mutations which gave that the leaders of the Soviet Muller. the doctrine of evolution new Academy of Sciences were "mismeaning.

contrasts our barbaric 20th century with his own happy era he will not stint himself in principal target was Tropraising Muller. 'To his months principal target was Tropraising Muller. 'To his months plants and animals could strought from the property of the principal target was Tropraising Muller. 'To his months property that plants and animals could transmit characteristics active the property of the property first, dehberate successful sci-entific interference with processes of heredity by ternal agencies' he will say of Academician Lysenko's views the professor.

getic man who often worked the support of Nikita S. Khruseven days a week in his lab-shchev. However, they were of oratory. He was fond of saying ficially discredited after Mr. that the evolutionary history of Khrushchev's fall from power in his hair had been from brown October, 1964. to gray to bald.

Urged Freezing of Sperm

Dr. Muller was thus especially interested in the shape of life in the future. For years he urged that man control his environment by freezing the sperm of gifted men for use after their death in artificial insemination.

essential to develop the attributes of intelligence and cooperativeness that are necessary to meet man's major problems.

The proposal, he said at an-ture, would be "disastrous." other time, is not to "seek a "We cannot be tolerant of inhigher basis of morality than tolerance and Communism is the selfish satisfactions of perturbed the most intolerant thing there sonal desire and mere vain glois," he asserted.

members could be equal to Lin-joi die Future, was published coln, Einstein and Pasteur were in 1935. In addition to preparing detailed, in a 16,000-word article published by the University of Chicago Press in 1959, author of "The Mechanics of Dr. Muller took the podium latter than the left of the wings of the left of er the sime year at the univer- "Geneticsity's observance of the 100th (1947). anniversary of Darwin's theory

The proposal evoked bitter riticism. The Catholic World monthly publication of the Paulist fathers, said that Dr. Wuller's "leap forward" might bring genetic perfection "but at the price" of transforming human life into a great animal arm where men are asked or the control of the highest honor in genetics, the Kimber Award, presented by the National Academy of Sciences. In 1961, he was a voted an honorary life membership in the American Institute of Biological Sciences.

Dr. Muller was a member of numerous scientific and academy of the highest honor in genetics, the Kimber Award, presented by the National Academy of Sciences. In 1961, he was a world and academy of Sciences. arm where men are asked or numerous scientific and acantimate rights and privileges American Genetic Association, genes."

our dangers of our times—war, from 1955 to 1959.

The purge of scientists in the and joined another chromosome. Scientists in 1948, Dr. Muller thereby disarranging nature's said that the Soviet Union had plans and specifications and imprisoned, banished or exproducing a mutation. "It was he who first turned geneticists since 1933 in a 'will-X-rays on the eggs of fruit flies ful destruction" of the "core of

fert, late science editor of The said that progress in genetics New York Times, wrote of Dr. research could not be restored using their position to destroy "When some future historian science for narrow political pur-

continued to be accepted after Dr. Muller was a short, ener- Stalin's death in 1953, receiving

Dr. Muller denounced the Soviet campaign for the Lysenko theory as "an artificial build-up

by ignorant fanatics."
The Academy replied: "It is without regret that the U.S.S.R. parts with its former members who had betrayed the interests of genuine science and openly deserted to the camp of the He said that the banks were adversaries of progress and science, peace and democracy.

Opposed Communist Teachers In 1953, Dr. Muller told Congressional investigators that in-"Here we have nothing to struction by Communist teachlose, but we and the world have ers in many fields, including everything to gain," Dr. Muller genetics, psychiatry, psychology, social sciences and literatory

Dr. Muller's first book, "Out His ideas for a group whose of the Night; A Biologist's View members could be equal to Lin-"Genetics, Medicine and Man"

THE WILMON

reconstruction

In 1955, the bespectacled Dr. of evolution to propound his Muller was one of the first recipients of the highest honor in

orced to surrender their most demic groups, including the or the greater glory of the the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Dr. Miller was optimistic, Philosophical Society and the owever, about man's future, American Society of Zoologists. provided that the world does He served as president of the ot fallsoprey to one of the American Humanist Association